

SOUTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008 @ 7.00PM AT BROOM VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. Egar(Chairman), Ablett, Fielder, Green, Hickman, Jones, Rook County Councillor Scott, the Parish Clerk and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Blackburn, Butcher, Litchfield and District Councillors Baines and Barker.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2008 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

Declarations were as follows : Cllr. Egar 9(c) Cllr. Hickman 7(d)iii.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Bedfordshire County Council – Communities Fund

Cllrs. Fielder reported that both he and Cllr. Butcher had discussed with local residents the preferred location of the vehicle activated speed sign in Broom and that all parties were happy to locate the sign on the grass verge adjacent to 'The Gables' on Southill Road. It was anticipated that the sign will be in position by the end of the year.

b) Councillor Vacancy

The Chairman announced that following the resignation of Cllr. Taylor, there were now two vacancies in the Southill ward. To date there had been one application from Mr. Gower, a resident of Southill, and it was unanimously agreed that if the Chairman and Vice Chairman were in agreement as to his suitability, Mr. Gower be co-opted on to the Council. The other vacancy was currently being advertised.

5. Police Report

PC Holbrook was in attendance and advised Councillors of the latest crime figures affecting the Parish. He also outlined results of a speed survey recently carried out on the B658 in Stanford which showed that, whilst there was significant speeding, it was noticeably less from the Broom direction where the vehicle activated speed sign is located. On this evidence Councillors were agreed that a further speed sign should be located from the Shefford direction as soon as funds were available.

The Chairman reported on a letter he had received from residents of Stanford concerning anti social behaviour by youths on the playing field. Although the responsibility for the management and maintenance of the playing field was the playing field associations and not the Council, the Chairman asked that PC Holbrook liaise with the association and the residents to hopefully resolve the situation. PC Holbrook and Cllr. Hickman (Stanford PFA representative) agreed to address the matter as soon as possible.

6. Parish Partnership Scheme

a) Stanford Road Junction Improvements

Cllr. Rook agreed to contact the representative from the County Council to try and arrange a site meeting.

b) Enhanced Scheme 2008/09

Cllr. Fielder reported that under this scheme footpath repairs would be undertaken by the County Council at The Crescent Stanford, Stanford Road Southill and Bancroft Road Broom.

7. Special Interest Groups' Reports

a) School

Cllr. Ablett reported that of the 64 children at the school, 55 were full time and 9 part time. During the summer term the butterfly park had been visited.

b) Broom Quarry Liaison

Nothing to report.

c) Grass Cutting

Due to the inclement weather, an additional cut was approved should it be necessary.

d) Halls and Playing Fields

i) Southill - Nothing to report

ii) Broom – Nothing to report

iii) Stanford – The annual fund raising duck race will take place on 21st September 2008.

e) Community Liaison Forum

The next meeting is scheduled for 15th September 2008 at Ickwell Village Hall commencing 7.30pm.

f) Parish Council Website

There has been a steady flow of visits to the site. It was agreed that a subscription service be introduced and that all Councillors be subscribed. Typically, notice of agendas and minutes will be available and subscribers' privacy issues will be upheld.

g) Communications

Cllr. Hickman reported that the usual regular communication was taking place and also informed Councillors that the new correspondent to the Biggleswade Chronicle for the village of Southill will report Parish Council news.

8. Highway Maintenance

The following highway issues were noted and would be reported to the County Council in the usual way :

Pot holes outside Southill Station, Southill

New gulley required by 15 -17 High Street, Broom where the water is draining very slowly

Poor surfacing of Mill Road, Stanford – previous pot holing repairs inadequate.

9. Planning Matters

a) Applications considered

Southill House, Southill Park

Supplementary works to east wing in conjunction with works granted under consent 07/01321
No objections

The Ranger, Broom Road, Stanford

Demolition of existing flat roof rear/side extension and bay window, re-construction of larger rear/side extension and bay window with higher roof to rear extension and side entrance, extension of pitched roof over the south west gable.

No objections

b) MBDC Decisions – Approvals and Refusals

None

c) Local Development Framework

The Special Interest Group have considered the proposal for three new houses in Broom and objected in a consistent way as previous proposals. A response to communication from the Shuttleworth Trust regarding employment sites at Broom Quarry had been forwarded to the District Council.

10. Financial Matters

a) Bank Balances

The Clerk reported bank balances as follows :

	£
Community Account	13,347.92
Business Premium Account	14,739.84

b) Payments

The following accounts have been received and were approved for payment :		£
Broom Village Hall	Hire of room	25.00
M J Granger Grounds Mtce.	Grass cutting	47.00
	Grass cutting	428.29
	Grass cutting	47.00
	Grass cutting	475.29
Beds Rural Communities Charity	Annual Subscription	30.00
P.D. Knightley	Clerk's duties & expenses July/August 2008	881.27

11. Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the correspondence. :

a) Bedfordshire County Council – Highways 5 Year Programme 2009 -2014
'We love Bedfordshire'

b) Mid Beds District Council - Street Nameplates

c) General Correspondence -
Beds RCC 'Bedfordshire Bugle' – September edition
'Network'
Parish Plan Workshop

12. Next Meeting - Monday 10th November 2008, 7.00pm at Southill Lower School

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.45pm

At a general meeting before the Parish Council Meeting the following points were raised by the public :

- Concern over the condition of horse chestnut trees in High Road, Broom
- Update given on progress of the formation of the new unitary authority.